

**IN THE DRAWINGS:**

Formal drawings are submitted concurrently herewith.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as indicated below.

Below are the amended claims in clean, unmarked format.

1. (Amended) A method comprising:

b1 identifying partial feasible routing solutions corresponding to each of a subset of a set of wires to be routed, each of the partial feasible routing solutions identifying a feasible route between fixed points in a layout;

merging the partial feasible routing solutions to identify one or more feasible routing solutions for the set of wires to be routed. p5:

9. (Amended) A method comprising:

b2 constructing multiple partial feasible routing trees, each of the partial feasible routing trees identifying a set of partial feasible routing solutions for a subset of a set of wires to be routed, each of the partial feasible routing solutions identifying feasible routes between <sup>node</sup>fixed points in a layout; and

merging the multiple partial feasible routing trees to identify a set of feasible routing solutions for the set of wires to be routed.

b3 15. (Amended) A method comprising:

determining a first set of possible routes between a first set of fixed points  
in an integrated circuit layout;

determining a second set of possible routes between a second set of fixed  
points in the integrated circuit layout;

merging the first and second sets of possible routes to determine a third  
set of possible routes, the third set of possible routes including possible routes  
from the first and second sets of possible routes that do not conflict.

20. (Amended) An apparatus comprising:

an integrated circuit device having wires routed according to a method  
comprising:

identifying partial feasible routing solutions corresponding to each  
of a subset of a set of wires to be routed, each of the partial feasible  
routing solutions identifying a feasible route between two nodes fixed in  
layout;

merging the partial feasible routing solutions to identify one or more  
feasible routing solutions for the set of wires to be routed; and

selecting the routing from the one or more feasible routing  
solutions.

22. (Amended) A data storage medium storing instructions to be  
executed by a computer system, the instructions comprising: